



April 24-30, 2005

National
Infant Immunization Week

Working together with
**Vaccination Week
in the Americas**

March 2005 Volume 8.1

SHOT TALK

National Infant Immunization Week

The San Antonio Metropolitan Health District will celebrate National Infant Immunization Week (NIIW) April 24-30, 2005. NIIW is an effort to educate parents, caregivers, providers, and communities on the importance of timely infant immunization. Over 500 cities in the United States are expected to participate in this year's observance. In addition, NIIW is working with the Pan American Health Organization to promote immunization in all countries of the Americas. Over 35 countries in the Western Hemisphere are joining together to highlight the need for routine vaccinations and to promote access to health services for infants and children.

Vaccines are among the most successful and cost-effective public health tools available for preventing disease and death. They not only help protect vaccinated individuals from developing potentially serious diseases, they also safeguard entire communities by preventing and reducing the spread of infectious agents. Because immunizations have been so successful, today's parents rarely see children with the devastating effects of rubella, tetanus, polio, measles, or other vaccine preventable diseases and may not realize these diseases still threaten the health and well being of their children.

The highlight of the week will be the 8th Annual National Infant Immunization Week-Vaccines for Children Appreciation Breakfast on Thursday, April 28th at the Institute of Texan Cultures. Breakfast will be served at 7:30 a.m. and the program will begin at 8:00 a.m. It is anticipated that over 300 guests will attend the breakfast. Dr. Michael Pichichero, an internationally recognized authority in pediatric vaccines, will be the keynote speaker. His presentation, ***Vaccines of the Future***, is sure to enlighten and

downtown, door prizes for children receiving vaccinations at immunization clinics, and recognition of NIIW poster contest winners.

VFC providers are encouraged to mark their calendars for April 28 and to check the mail for their invitation. For more information on NIIW contact Vivian Flores at 207-2868.

NIIW Art Contest

In celebration of National Infant Immunization Week, the San Antonio Metropolitan Health District (SAMHD) Immunization Division held its First Annual Immunization Art Contest. This immunization art contest allowed students the opportunity to learn about the importance of immunizations while also engaging teachers and parents in this educational process. The SAMHD would like to recognize the following schools for their participation: Bowden Elementary, Ogden Elementary, Kitty Hawk Middle School, Holy Spirit Catholic School, Barrera Veterans Elementary, Edgewood Academy, Columbia Heights Elementary, Kindred Elementary, and Castle Hills First Baptist School. Student interest was outstanding with close to 200 posters submitted from students in grades K-12.

Thirteen winners (one from each participating grade level) were selected and their art work was included in an immunization calendar which will be used to educate parents, doctors, and the community regarding the importance of timely immunizations. The calendars were distributed to four local birthing hospitals to be given to mothers of newborn children.

The SAMHD would like to congratulate the winners whose artwork has been reproduced and published in the 2005 immunization calendar. Congratulations to the following winners whose artwork displayed originality, use of imagination, creativity, and selection of a clear immunization message: Nicholas San Roman, Lizzie Stephens, Alex Friedman, Kwin Keller, Christine Hensley, Zac Tingle, Maria Rivera, Meagan Ramirez, Khrystyan Ruffo, Samantha Perez, Isbac Monreal, Abby Rodriguez, and Christopher Martinez. Nicholas San Roman's artwork is featured on the cover of the calendar as the top winner, with his artwork titled, **"No Shots, No Play"**.

There will be a press release recognizing the winners following the NIIW Proclamation scheduled for April 21, 2005. The Immunization Division is pleased to announce that plans are underway for the

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impress the audience. Awards, door prizes, vaccine manufacturer displays and a few surprises promise to make the morning eventful. Other NIIW activities are planned to promote this special week which includes an open house at the Main Immunization Clinic

Second Annual Immunization Art Contest scheduled from March through June 2005. Students interested in participating can contact Elvia Ledezma at (210) 207-2862.

New Meningococcal Vaccine Licensed

On January 17, 2005, Sanofi Pasteur (Swiftwater, PA), the vaccine business of the Sanofi-Aventis Group, announced that the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has licensed Menactra™ (Meningococcal [Groups A, C, Y and W-135] Polysaccharide Diphtheria Toxoid Conjugate Vaccine) for protection against meningococcal disease in adolescents and adults aged 11-55 years. Menactra™ vaccine (MCV4) is the first quadrivalent conjugate vaccine licensed in the U.S. for the prevention of meningococcal disease and is designed to offer protection against four serogroups of *Neisseria meningitidis* (A, C, Y, W-135), the bacterium that causes meningococcal infection.

Although meningococcal disease rates are highest in infants, morbidity begins to rise again in early adolescence and peaks between the ages of 15 and 24 years. Menactra™ will now offer another resource to U.S. health care providers for combating meningococcal infection in adolescents and young adults who are at increased risk for contracting this disease.

On February 10th, 2005, the CDC's Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) voted on new recommendations for the use of meningococcal vaccines including MCV4. A VFC resolution for the use of meningococcal vaccines was also adopted by ACIP. Although Menactra™ will be arriving in provider practices soon for insured patients, it is not yet available from the SAMHD Vaccines for Children (VFC) Program. The SAMHD VFC Program will alert all VFC providers when it does become available. For more information on Menactra™ log onto <http://www.menactra.com/>

Flu Vaccine Study in the Elderly

"Impact of Influenza Vaccination on Seasonal Mortality in the US Elderly Population" by Simonsen et al. (2005)

The following is a Statement by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the National Institutes of Health (NIH) regarding this study:

A study published recently in the Archives of Internal Medicine reports that vaccination of the elderly population against influenza may be less effective in preventing death among the elderly than previously assumed. This study's findings have caused some confusion about whether people 65 years old and older should receive an influenza

vaccination.

CDC and NIH continue to support the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) recommendation that people aged 65 and older get vaccinated against influenza each year. People aged 65 and older are at highest risk for complications, hospitalizations, and deaths from influenza. Vaccination remains the best protection from influenza available for people 65 and older and their loved ones.

Numerous studies have shown that influenza vaccination works-including to help protect the elderly from serious illness and hospitalizations-but the degree to which it works varies from year to year and can be difficult to measure. For example, influenza seasons differ each year in length and severity, and the health status of individuals also matters.

In the current study by Simonsen et al, the authors in no way imply that the elderly should not receive influenza vaccine. Rather, the study concludes that the vaccine may prevent fewer deaths among the elderly than previous studies would have suggested. Therefore, the authors note that there is room for improvement in influenza prevention efforts, including research into developing more effective vaccines for the elderly and the increased use of medicines to treat flu.

In addition, recently published studies raise the possibility that it may be beneficial to vaccinate larger numbers of healthy persons, including children, to prevent transmission of influenza viruses to high-risk persons such as the elderly. Expansion of groups for whom influenza vaccination is recommended is under discussion by the ACIP and CDC, and is partly contingent on adequate vaccine supply in the future.

The CDC and ACIP continually review their influenza vaccine recommendations as well as studies and published research in order to develop the best recommendations for protecting all Americans from influenza. This study is a reminder that there is room for improvement in how we protect the elderly from influenza, and CDC and NIH encourage research that strengthens our ability to do so.

Source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the National Institutes of Health (NIH) February 15, 2005

2004-2005 Flu Season Wrap Up

The 2004-2005 flu season has been a trying time for healthcare staff as well as for San Antonio citizens who were seeking a flu shot this year. On October 5th, it was announced that half of the nation's influenza supply would not be available due to the Chiron Corporations license being suspended by the regulatory officials in the United Kingdom. The CDC recommended that the vaccine only be given to those people most at risk. The San Antonio Metropolitan Health District (SAMHD) immediately began following

these guidelines in their clinics and scheduled outreach clinics. At the same time, the SAMHD worked closely with many organizations to ensure that those people who are most at-risk would receive their flu shots this year.

SAMHD collaborated with the Alamo Area Council of Governments, HEB pharmacy staff, and Maxim Healthcare Systems to ensure that area nursing homes were able to purchase and administer adequate vaccine for their residents. Other community partners such as City Public Service and Wesley Primary Care Clinic also made donations of flu vaccine to SAMHD for use in our clinics.

On January 3, 2005, the CDC loosened the restrictions so that vaccine could be administered to people 50 years of age and older as well as out-of-home caregivers and household contacts of persons considered high risk. Furthermore, on January 25, 2005, the Texas Department of State Health Services opened immunizations to all people 6 months of age or older. During the months of September 2004 through February 2005, the SAMHD Immunization Program was able to administer over 37,000 influenza and almost 5,000 pneumonia immunizations at its 15 clinics and 78 other one-day outreach clinics.

Despite the obstacles faced in providing a limited amount of flu vaccine, the SAMHD and local agencies were able to work together to ensure that the available vaccine was administered according to CDC recommendations. SAMHD clinics will continue to provide influenza vaccinations for children 6-35 months of age. VFC providers are encouraged to continue offering influenza vaccine to eligible patients.

As one season ends, planning for the 2005-2006 Flu Season will soon begin. Be sure to read the June issue of *Shot Talk* for information about SAMHD's next Flu Campaign.

QA/AFIX Team Off to a Great Start

The QA/AFIX Team is off to a great start in 2005! The Quality Assurance/AFIX Team has been scheduling Quality Assurance/VFC site visits at Vaccines for Children (VFC) provider locations throughout the area. Since the beginning of the year, the team has conducted 40 site visits. The purpose of conducting site visits is to ensure that enrolled VFC providers are immunizing patients according to Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) guidelines and adhering to VFC Program guidelines.

The QA/AFIX Team remains willing and available to assist you in arranging an appointment for a site visit to benefit your facility. Site visits provide valuable information to providers on their immunization practice patterns and immunization rates. Each visit is

designed to help identify possible barriers to immunization that may result in low vaccination coverage or missed opportunities for immunization. The primary role of the QA/AFIX Team is to assist providers in finding practical solutions to immunization related dilemmas within their facilities.

The members of the QA/AFIX Team would like to thank the following providers and their staffs for participating in the QA/AFIX site visit process during this past quarter:

Respite Care Medical Wellness Clinic, Generations Family Medicine, Dr. Reyes, Hill Country Family Medical Center-S.A., Bromley Medical Group, Acute Care Clinic-University Health System, Thousand Oaks Pediatrics, Clinica del Norte Pediatrics, Dr. Rocha, Dr. Molina-Rivera, Dr. Cynthia Villarreal, The Family Doctor Office, Christus Santa Rosa Family Health Center, Howard Family Practice, Dr. Escalante, Dr. Garica-Main, Quinones Family Medicine, SAMHD-Kenwood Nursing Clinic, UPG-Student Health Center and Family Practice, SAMHD-Salinas Nursing Clinic, SAMHD-Eastside Nursing Clinic, SAMHD-South Flores Nursing Clinic, SAMHD-Highway 90 Nursing Clinic, Somerset Independent School District-Student Health Center, Porter Medical Associates, SAMHD-Zarzamora Nursing Clinic, Kellum Pediatric Clinic-Marbach, South Alamo Medical Group, SAMHD-Pecan Valley Nursing Clinic, SAMHD-Southwest Branch Nursing Clinic, South Park Medical Care Center, Trevino Family Clinic-Division, SAMHD-West End Nursing Clinic, SAMHD-Main Immunization Center, SAMHD-Ingram/Callaghan Immunization Clinic, SAMHD-Fredericksburg Immunization Clinic, SAMHD-Naco-Perrin Immunization Clinic, South San Antonio Medical Associates, and Family Clinics of San Antonio.

Congratulations are in order for the following providers that achieved outstanding immunization coverage rates during the past quarter: Southwest Children's Center (100%), Kellum Pediatric Clinic-Marbach (100%), South Park Medical Care Center (100%), SAMHD-Eastside Branch Nursing Clinic (100%), SAMHD-Kenwood Nursing Clinic (100%), SAMHD-Highway 90 Nursing Clinic (100%), SAMHD-Pecan Valley Nursing Clinic (100%), SAMHD-Salinas Nursing Clinic (100%), SAMHD-South Flores Nursing Clinic (100%), SAMHD-Southwest Branch Nursing Clinic (100%), SAMHD-Zarzamora Nursing Clinic (100%), Thousand Oaks Pediatrics (93%), Clinica del Norte Pediatrics, (90%), Barrio Comprehensive Family Health Center-Ella Austin (88%), South San Antonio Family Practice (88%), Dr. Cynthia Villarreal, (86%), Christus Santa Rosa Family Health Center (85%), and South Alamo Medical Group (82%). These facilities worked proactively to ensure that over 80% of the children seen by their practices are up-to-date on their required immunizations of 4 DTaP, 3 Polio, 1 MMR, 3

Hib, 3Hep B, and 1 Var by 24 months of age. All of these facilities invested substantial efforts towards improving children's immunization coverage levels within their practices. **JOB WELL DONE!!** Keep up the great work!!

Special congratulations go out to Southwest Children's Center, Kellum Pediatric Clinic-Marbach, South Park Medical Care Center, SAMHD-Eastside Branch Nursing Clinic, SAMHD-Kenwood Nursing Clinic, SAMHD-Highway 90 Nursing Clinic, SAMHD-Pecan Valley Nursing Clinic, SAMHD-Salinas Nursing Clinic, SAMHD-South Flores Nursing Clinic, SAMHD-Southwest Branch Nursing Clinic, and SAMHD-Zarzamora Nursing Clinic. These facilities surpassed the National Immunization Program (NIP) goal of 90% immunization coverage for the 4:3:1:3:3:1 series, receiving a perfect score of 100%. In fact, this is the second consecutive year that SAMHD-Highway 90 Nursing Clinic and SAMHD-Zarzamora Nursing Clinic have received a perfect score! Very Impressive!!



Southwest Children's Center



Kellum Pediatric Clinic- Marbach



Centro Med – South Park

We would like to once again Thank our VFC providers for your outstanding dedication and commitment toward keeping the children in our community healthy. Your continued participation in our VFC Program is sincerely appreciated, we commend you all for the excellent work you do!!

VFC providers are encouraged to use the Clinical Assessment Software Application (CASA) to simplify keeping patient's immunization status up-to-date. The software is free of charge and the QA/AFIX staff is available to assist with training and installation. For more information or to schedule a site visit, please contact Kenya Wilson at 207-3974.

CDC Notifies Congress

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) is formally notifying Congress about an initial series of four steps it will be taking by March 18, 2005, to build a more robust vaccine safety activity to keep pace with the increasing number and combinations of recommended immunizations, especially for children under two.

Nearly every American receives immunizations throughout their life and some receive their first within 24 hours of their birth. Central to the success of this proven life-saving program is the public's confidence in the benefit and safety of these vaccinations. Sustained confidence in immunizations depends on the scientific quality and objectivity of our recommendations. CDC's world-class vaccine safety scientists and immunization program experts have an extraordinary record of success in protecting the health and safety of children and adults who receive immunizations. This is a public health program that touches every person in the nation and we believe that the steps we're initiating today, along with our past efforts, speak to CDC's commitment to make vaccines as safe as possible for children and adults.

CDC's initial steps to strengthen efforts to protect children's health and safety include the following:



- ✓ Increasing the resources for immunization safety research and immunization safety activities,
- ✓ Working with sister agencies in the Department of Health and Human Services to define vaccine safety research and safety monitoring priorities and agenda for addressing gaps,
- ✓ Separating the vaccine safety activity from CDC's immunization education and recommendation programs and moving the vaccine safety activity to CDC's Office of the Chief of Science,
- ✓ Emphasizing the transparency of CDC's science and research work regarding immunization safety issues with continued communication between it and concerned parents, public officials, and health-care professionals.

These initial steps follow a series of efforts by CDC to obtain input about its immunization safety activities from health professionals, scientists, policy makers, and, most importantly, parents. For example, in 2004, CDC convened a Blue Ribbon Panel of health and safety science professionals to independently provide assessments of its activities. In addition, CDC heard directly from parents and concerned citizens through a series of listening meetings held in communities across the nation. CDC also asked for assessments from its own scientists and health professionals. Nonetheless, during this transition, CDC continues to invite input from others regarding its efforts to strengthen vaccine safety science activities, focus resource allocations, and expand oversight and review efforts.

When making immunization recommendations, CDC is committed to a scientifically thorough and transparent decision process. We intend to make our safety program even stronger and respect ongoing input from those who share our concerns. Although no single step can satisfy everyone, we believe these new actions will help reassure the public that we are absolutely committed to protecting our children's health and safety.

Source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Julie Louise Gerberding, M.D., M.P.H.

Did You Know It's the Law?

Vaccine Information Statements (VISs) are developed by the CDC in order to properly inform the patient or the parent/guardian about the risks and benefits of each vaccine the patient will receive. The use of the VIS is mandatory for each of the routinely recommended childhood vaccines as required by the 1994 National Childhood Vaccine Injury Act.

Federal Law requires that VISs are given out for each vaccine administered. The law also requires that the publication date of the VIS and date the VIS was given be documented in the patient's chart. Providers must also ensure that the most current version of the VIS is being used.

If your office is in need of VISs, camera ready originals are in your Vaccines for Children (VFC) Operation Manual and in the VFC Toolkit. You can also contact the Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS) at 1-800-252-9152 to order VISs in bulk. VISs in multiple languages are available at www.immunize.org/vis. For more information or to request a listing of the most current VIS publication dates, please contact Clarisa Ulrich, VFC Educator, at 210-207-2863.

Vaccine Clinical Trials Continue in 2005

As promised in the January issue of *Shot Talk* the San Antonio Metropolitan Health District (SAMHD)

Special Projects team continues a previous study and launches a new research study.

DAPTACEL®

The San Antonio Metropolitan Health District is conducting a continuation of a previous research study. This is an open-label, two-arm, multi-center descriptive study designed to assess the safety and immunogenicity of DAPTACEL® administered at 4 to 6 years of age according to the U.S. standard of care. The study population will consist of subjects from the Aventis Pasteur study P3T06 who previously received 4 doses of either DAPTACEL® or Pentacel™ vaccine. The children who previously received DAPTACEL® will receive DAPTACEL® as a 5th dose co-administered with a 4th dose of IPV and a 2nd dose of MMR. The children who previously received Pentacel™ will receive DAPTACEL® as a 5th dose concurrently with a 2nd dose of MMR only.

There are a total of 39 eligible subjects who will be contacted to enroll in this new study. The study consists of two clinic visits and blood samples will be obtained at each visit. Parents or guardians will be asked to record on a memory aid any local or systemic vaccine reactions and telephone contacts will be conducted. Subjects participating in the study will be financially compensated and offered recommended immunizations at no cost.

M-M-R II

The San Antonio Metropolitan Health District (SAMHD) is currently collaborating with Merck and Company to conduct an MMR™ II research study. MMR™ II is a live virus vaccine indicated for simultaneous vaccination against measles, mumps and rubella. Currently in the United States, it's recommended to administer a dose of MMR at 12 to 15 months of age and a second dose at 4 to 6 years of age. This is a comparative study to evaluate the immunogenicity and safety in healthy children, 12 to 18 months of age who receive either M-M-R™II manufactured from the 2003 Measles Stock Seed versus M-M-R™II manufactured from the 1967 Measles Stock Seed. The subjects will also receive a single dose of Varicella.

The study consists of two clinic visits and blood samples will be obtained at each visit. Parents or guardians will be asked to record temperatures and any vaccine reactions they feel represent a change in the health status of their child. Subjects participating in the study will be financially compensated and offered recommended immunizations free of charge. Recruitment for this study is currently underway.

Please read the next issue of *Shot Talk* to stay informed about ongoing and future clinical trials. To learn more about these vaccine studies or how to participate in future studies, please call the SAMHD at 207-3968 or 207-3965.

Planning A Trip To Far Away Places?

The San Antonio Metropolitan Health District (SAMHD) has two clinics that offer Foreign Travel Immunization services. The SAMHD can help you plan a healthy trip. You should consider the following factors when making your plans:

- Your current health status and vaccination history
- Endemic health-related risks to the country or countries you will be visiting
- Any planned activities in urban or rural areas
- Duration of your stay and accommodations

At least six weeks prior to your departure, take advantage of our many services:

- Counseling pertaining to immunization status and health
- Administration of necessary vaccines (required or recommended by visiting county)
- Issuing International Health Certificates for Yellow Fever
- Updating your immunization record
- Issuing anti-malarial prescriptions

If you have health concerns, you should consult your physician prior to your clinic visit. Both clinics operate on an appointment basis and include a minimal consultation fee.

Our Main Travel Clinic is located at 345 W. Commerce, (210) 207-8872, and the Valley View Clinic is at 8523 Blanco Rd (at West Ave), (210) 207-8735. Both clinics offer travel appointments. Adults who need to update their routine immunizations may come to either location on a walk – in basis. Please call our Main Immunization Clinic at (210) 207-8894 for additional information.



2005 National Immunization Conference

The National Immunization Conference (NIC) will be held on March 21-24 in Washington D.C. The goals of the Conference are to provide information that will help participants provide comprehensive immunization coverage for all age groups and explore innovative strategies for developing programs, policy, and research to promote immunization coverage for all age groups.

The SAMHD Immunization Division will be represented at the NIC by staff members whose presentations were accepted for display at the conference. One presentation will detail the SAMHD's transition from an older mainframe version of the Immunization Registry to the newer Microsoft SQL Server based Immunization Registry with a web interface. The remaining presentation will display the

results of a study that identifies socio-demographic trends among back-to-school clinic populations and determines how these factors influence compliance with school immunization policies.

During three and a half days of plenary sessions and workshops, many topics will be discussed, including: Adolescent Immunization, Barriers to Vaccination, Childhood Immunization, Policy and Legislation, New Vaccines, Immunization Registries and more immunization related topics. For more information on this conference log onto www.cdc.gov/nip/NIC/default.htm

City Holiday Calendar

Good Friday, March 25, 2005

Fiesta San Jacinto Day, April 22, 2005

Memorial Day, May 30, 2005

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Immunization Resource Sites

SAMHD: www.sanantonio.gov/health

DSHS: www.dshs.state.tx.us

CDC: www.cdc.gov/nip

IAC: www.immunize.org

National Network for Immunization Information:
www.immunizationinfo.org/

